WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surface acoustic wave branching filter comprising:

a first surface acoustic wave filter having a ladder-type circuit structure including a plurality of parallel-arm resonators and a plurality of series-arm resonators, the first surface acoustic wave filter having a relatively low passband;

a second surface acoustic wave filter having a relatively high passband that is higher than said relatively low passband; and

a first common terminal to which one end of each of the first and second surface acoustic wave filters is connected, the first common terminal being connected to an antenna; wherein

one of the plurality of series-arm resonators and parallel-arm resonators that is closest to the first common terminal is a parallel-arm resonator and the capacitance of the parallel-arm resonator that is closest to the first common terminal is less than about 1/2 of the capacitance of another one of the plurality of parallel-arm resonators.

2. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 1, wherein the capacitance of the parallel-arm resonator that is closest to the first common terminal is in the range of about 1/40 to about 1/5 of the capacitance of said another one of the plurality of parallel-arm resonators.

3. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed

in claim 1, further comprising a second common terminal to which one end of the parallel-arm resonator that is closest to the first common terminal and one end of the another one of the plurality of parallel-arm resonators are connected, and an inductance element is arranged between the second common terminal and ground potential.

4. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a package material housing the first and second surface acoustic wave filters, wherein the second common terminal is included in the package material.

5. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 1, wherein a resonance frequency of the parallel-arm resonator that is closest to the first common terminal is substantially the same as the resonance frequency of said another one of the plurality of parallel-arm resonators.

6. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a phase adjustment element located between the second surface acoustic wave filter and the first common terminal.

7. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 6, wherein the amount of phase delay of the phase adjustment element is less than about 90 degrees from a central frequency of the first surface acoustic wave filter and, when seen from the side of the first common terminal, at

least about 50% of the passband of the second surface acoustic wave filter is inductive.

8. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 6, wherein the phase adjustment element includes a stripline.

9. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 6, wherein the phase adjustment element includes a capacitance element and an inductance element.

10. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 1, wherein, when seen from the side of the first common terminal, at least about 50% of the passband of the second surface acoustic wave filter is inductive.

11. The surface acoustic wave branching filter as claimed in claim 1, wherein said one of the plurality of parallel-arm resonators is located between the series-arm resonators.